

D.N. 0100.00

We Claim:

1. An immunovariant strain of *Eimeria maxima*, said immunovariant strain designated *E. maxima*-I.
- 5 2. An immunovariant strain of *Eimeria maxima* that corresponds in characteristics to the strain *E. maxima*-I.
- 10 3. A vaccine for use in combating coccidiosis in chickens comprising an effective concentration of oocysts of *E. maxima*-I together with a pharmaceutically and/or veterinarily acceptable carrier, diluent, excipient and/or adjuvant.
- 15 4. A vaccine for use in combating coccidiosis in chickens comprising an effective concentration of oocysts of an immunovariant strain of *Eimeria maxima* that corresponds in characteristics to the strain *E. maxima*-I together with a pharmaceutically and/or veterinarily acceptable carrier, diluent, excipient and/or adjuvant.
5. The vaccine of Claim 3 comprising oocysts of other species or strains of *Eimeria*.
- 20 6. The vaccine of Claim 4 comprising oocysts of other species or strains of *Eimeria*.
7. The vaccine of Claim 5 or Claim 6 further comprising immunogens related to other pathogens of poultry.
- 25 8. A method of inhibiting coccidiosis in poultry which comprises administering to the chickens an effective amount of a vaccine as claimed in Claim 5.

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9. A method of inhibiting coccidiosis in poultry which comprises administering to the chickens an effective amount of a vaccine as claimed in Claim 6.

5 10. A method of inhibiting coccidiosis in poultry which comprises administering to the chickens an effective amount of a vaccine as claimed in Claim 5 together with an effective amount of an anticoccidial medication.

10 11. A method of inhibiting coccidiosis in poultry which comprises administering to the chickens an effective amount of a vaccine as claimed in Claim 6 together with an effective amount of an anticoccidial medication.

12. A method of obtaining an immunovariant strain of *Eimeria maxima* from *Eimeria maxima* FL strain comprising:

- 15 a. immunizing birds with oocysts of *E. maxima*-GLP;
- b. challenging said birds with oocysts of *E. maxima*-FL;
- c. recovering oocysts from birds which had been immunized with *E. maxima*-GLP and challenged with *E. maxima*-FL;
- 20 d. challenging *E. maxima*-GLP-immunized birds with said recovered oocysts;
- e. recovering oocysts;
- 25 f. repeating steps d and e at least one time; and
- g. obtaining an immunovariant strain of *E. maxima*.

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13. An immunovariant strain of *Eimeria maxima* isolated by the method of Claim 10.

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